

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 7178

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, SENV, OCON

SUBJECT: UN WATER CONFERENCE: ARGENTINE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 264989

1. WE HAVE CALLED ARGENTINE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (CONFAGUA) AND LEARNED THAT INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION HAS INDEED BEEN CANCELLED, MOSTLY BECAUSE REMAINING TIME IS TOO SHORT TO PERMIT ITS ORGANIZATION.

2. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT DR. GUILLERMO CANO HAS RESIGNED AS PRESIDENT OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. HE HAS BEEN REPLACED BY UNDERSECRETARY FOR WATER RESOURCES, ENGINEER LUIS URBANO JAUREGUI. (COMMENT: JAUREQUI ATTENDED LIMA PREPCOM. HE HAS EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN WATER RESOURCES. HE HAD BEEN WORKING FOR SUBSIDIARY OF U.S. COMPANY - ARMCO - BEFORE BEING NAMED TO PRESENT POSITION IN AUGUST. HE IS EXPECTED TO HEAD ARGENTINE DEL TO WATER CONFERENCE AND, PRESUMABLY, BE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY.)

3. RE PUBLIC SAFETY, SEE ALSO PARA. 13 OF LIMA 8078. WHILE THE GOA IS MAKING RAPID PROGRESS IN ITS WAR AGAINST THE TERRORISTS, SOME REMAIN, AND THERE CONTINUE TO BE REPORTS OF TERRORIST AND ANTI-TERRORIST ACTION IN MAR DEL PLATA, ALTHOUGH NOT ON THE SCALE OF BUENOS AIRES OR CORDOBA. MAR DEL PLATA IS A LARGE BEACH RESORT CITY WHICH WILL BE MOBBED WITH ARGENTINE VACATIONERS FROM DECEMBER

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UNTIL JUST BEFORE THE CONFERENCE. PAST EXPERIENCE LEADS US

TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOA WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY
(PROBABLY WITH MILITARY TROOPS) APPROPRIATE TO WHATEVER
THREAT EXISTS AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING. (WE WILL, OF
COURSE, TRY TO REPORT ON ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AS TO
MEETING SECURITY.) DELEGATES AND NGO OBSERVERS SHOULD BE
AWARE THAT BOTH TERRORIST ATTACKS AND COMMON CRIME DO OCCUR
IN MAR DEL PLATA, THO WE WOULD NOT CHARACTERIZE THE RISK AS
UNDULY HIGH, NOR DO WE RESTRICT THE TRAVEL OF EMBASSY OR
OTHER USG PERSONNEL TO MAR DEL PLATA.
HILL

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